



Spread your wings, learn new things, fly as high as you can.

Cycling Policy

Approval Date: October 2023

Review Date: October 2025

Dovecotes Primary School

Introduction

The school recognises the many positive benefits of pupils cycling to and from school from a health perspective. However, the school also recognises the importance of cycling to and from school safely and sensibly. For that reason, every child who comes to school on a bicycle (along with their parent/ carer) must sign the school cycling agreement (this includes children who are accompanied by their parents/ carers).

Benefits of cycling to school include:

- Improving health through physical activity.
- Establishing positive active travel behaviour.
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness.
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community.
- Reducing environmental impact of the journey to school.

Role of the pupil:

- To ride to school sensibly and safely.
- To take advantage of cycling training opportunities as they become available, throughout the school, across the year groups.
- To take responsibility for checking that their bicycle is roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- To ensure that their bicycle is locked securely when unattended.
- To behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling.
- To correctly wear a cycle helmet to and from the school site.
- To ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using bicycle lights and wearing high-visibility clothing.
- To dismount upon entering the school site and walk their bicycles to the storage area. **Riding on school premises is not acceptable at any time.**
- To be aware of other pedestrians when wheeling the bicycle through the school site.

Role of the school:

- To provide cycle training for pupils, where available, such as Level 1 Bikeability Playground Based Training.
- To provide adequate cycle storage.
- The Headteacher will notify parents if children do not adhere to the Cycling Policy and permission to ride will be withdrawn until the issues identified have been satisfactorily addressed.

The school is not responsible for bicycles or cycle helmets brought on to or left on school premises and is therefore not liable for pupils' bicycles or cycle helmets being stolen or damaged by a third party.

Role of the parent:

The school strongly recommends that pupils wishing to cycle to school have undertaken the necessary Cycle Proficiency training available through school. More information on the Bikeability training syllabus is available at www.bikeability.org.uk. Please note that RoSPA advice states that

children below 11 years of age have not normally attained sufficient cognitive hazard perception skill to ride on roads independently. For this reason, we strongly recommend that all children who cycle to school are accompanied by an adult until such time as the parent is confident the child has the knowledge and skills to be allowed to cycle unsupervised. Responsibility for children whilst on their way to or from school rests with parents. The school cannot take responsibility for the safety of children outside school. It is ultimately the parent/carers decision to deem whether a child is competent to cycle independently to and from school and the school has no liability for any consequences of that decision.

Parents will:

- Ensure that their child undertakes the necessary cycling training opportunities as they become available, throughout the school, across the year groups to develop their competence and confidence in cycling.
- Accompany children who have not undertaken the necessary training and still wish to cycle to school.
- Ensure their child has an appropriate knowledge of road safety.
- Identify the safest cycling route to school with their children and point out particular hazards and danger points.
- Decide whether their child is competent to cycle independently to and from school safely.
- Take responsibility for checking that their child's bicycle is roadworthy, regularly maintained and the correct size.
- Provide a lock to secure their child's bicycle when at school.
- Ensure that their child wears a cycle helmet and appropriate bright and or reflective clothing on the journey so that they can be seen by other road users as well as providing bicycle lights.
- Note that all bicycles and cycle helmets are brought and stored on school grounds at the owners risk and the school cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage to them.

Recommended maintenance checks for bicycles.

- Both brakes are working.
- Tyres are pumped up and wheels are not wobbling sideways.
- Handlebars and the saddle are straight and tight and are adjusted to the correct height for the child.
- Front, rear and wheel reflectors are clean and visible.
- Lights are working, clean and visible.

Dovecotes Primary School Cycle Home School Agreement

Child - I will:

- Ride to school sensibly and safely following the Highway Code.
- Take advantage of cycling training opportunities as they become available, throughout the school, across the year groups.
- Take responsibility for checking that my bicycle is roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- Ensure that my bicycle is locked securely in the bicycle shelter when unattended.
- Behave in a manner which shows me and my school in the best possible light and consider the needs of others when cycling.
- Correctly wear a cycle helmet to and from the school site.
- Ensure that I can be seen by other road users, by using bicycle lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.
- Dismount upon entering the school site and walk my bicycle to the storage area.
- Be aware of other pedestrians when wheeling the bicycle through the school site.

Child's Name: _____

Child's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent - I will:

- Ensure my child undertakes the necessary cycling training opportunities as they become available, throughout the school, across the year groups to develop their competence and confidence in cycling.
- Accompany my child if they have not undertaken the necessary training and still wish to cycle to school.
- Ensure my child has an appropriate knowledge of road safety.
- Identify the safest cycling route to school with my child and point out particular hazards and danger points.
- Decide whether my child is competent to cycle independently to and from school safely.
- Take responsibility for checking that my child's bicycle is roadworthy, regularly maintained and the correct size.
- Provide a lock to secure my child's bicycle.
- Ensure that my child wears a cycle helmet and appropriate bright and or reflective clothing on the journey so that they can be seen by other road users as well as providing bicycle lights.
- Note that all bicycles and cycle helmets are brought and stored on school grounds at the owners risk and the school cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage to them.

Parent's Name : _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____